

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28, and continuing through page 8, line 4, as follows:

In a reaction vessel (volume of 15m³), to which a flush valve was placed as a blowdown valve at the bottom of the reaction vessel, 44 kmol of butanol, 75 kmol of methyl methacrylate, and 0.03 kmol of ~~tetrabutoxy titanate~~ tetrabutoxy titanium as a catalyst were prepared and were reacted at 100 to 130 °C to obtain butyl methacrylate (BMA). In this case, leakage was not found at the flush valve even after reactions of 1600 batches had been continuously carried out.